

In the claims:

For the convenience of the Examiner, all claims being examined, whether or not amended, are presented below.

Applicants cancel, without prejudice, claim 69.

1-62. **(Cancelled)**

63. **(Currently amended)** A preparation of a polypeptide comprising a hedgehog polypeptide sequence including at least 50 amino acid residues of an N-terminal half of a *hedgehog* protein, which polypeptide is formulated for topical application to hair, wherein said hedgehog protein is post-translationally modified with one or more lipophilic or hydrophobic moieties.

64. **(Cancelled)**

65. **(Previously amended)** The preparation of claim 63, wherein the polypeptide includes at least 150 amino acids residues of an N-terminal half of the *hedgehog* protein.

66. **(Original)** The preparation of claim 63, wherein the polypeptide includes at least 100 amino acids of an extracellular domain of the hedgehog protein.

67. **(Previously amended)** The preparation of claim 63, wherein the polypeptide includes at least a portion of a hedgehog protein corresponding to a 19kd fragment of an extracellular domain of the hedgehog protein.

68. **(Original)** The preparation of claim 63, wherein the hedgehog protein is encoded by a gene of a vertebrate organism.

69. **(Cancelled)**

70. **(Currently amended)** The preparation of claim 63 ~~69~~, wherein the hedgehog protein is modified with one or more lipophilic moieties.
71. **(Currently amended)** The preparation of claim 63 ~~69~~, wherein the hedgehog polypeptide is modified with one or more sterol moieties.
72. **(Previously presented)** The preparation of claim 71, wherein the sterol moiety is cholesterol.
73. **(Previously presented)** The preparation of claim 70, wherein the one or more lipophilic moieties are one or more fatty acid moieties.
74. **(Previously presented)** The preparation of claim 73, wherein each fatty acid moiety is independently selected from myristoyl, palmitoyl, stearoyl, or arachidoyl.
75. **(Previously presented)** The preparation of claim 70, wherein the hedgehog polypeptide is modified with one or more aromatic hydrocarbons.